

From "Fort Bridger" - Gowan & Campbell

there be anything sold that you want for yourself or public I wish you would inform me as soon as possible. Or any suggestions about the Bridger Ranch, or the property that might be left by the army. I suppose of course, it would be well for me to take possession if possible. I should have written to you before but had no time to attend.

(Signed) Your Brother, Lewis Robison.<sup>6</sup>

When Robison arrived at Fort Bridger, he posted a notice indicating that he intended to take possession of the fort if he could do so legally. At first informing all those who might be concerned that it was "...the intention of officers now in charge directing and commanding at Ft. Bridger to sell and transfer the same with improvements made thereon"; he then proceeded in the notice to outline his claim.

*Now I therefore, Lewis Robison, the lawful and rightful owner of said premises and I hereby claim as my legal right the peaceful possession of the same together with all the buildings, corrals, yard fields, or improvements, whereon are pertances there belonging or in anywise pertaining and I do hereby forbid the sale of said premise or any portion thereof to any person or persons whatever, and I also warned all or any persons against purchasing, taking, or retaining possession of the same. Given under my hand and seal this 22nd day of July A. D. 1861, (Signed) Lewis Robison.<sup>7</sup>*

Of course Robison's claim to ownership was not acceptable to Captain Gove and other military persons at the fort, and the sale went ahead as scheduled. However, there were a number of Mormons who came to the sale. After talking with Captain Gove, Robison was content to make a statement to the effect that "Capt. Gove was a gentlemen, but that the damn United States Government had robbed him of his property and he intended to have it."<sup>8</sup> One of the men who went from Salt Lake City to the sale was Hyrum B. Clawson, Brigham Young's son-in-law and business agent. He listed an interesting expense account for his trip to Fort Bridger, including in his list of purchases such things as glue pots, hair for horse collars, blankets, a teapot, corkscrews, one clock, one hundred feet of rope, candles and soap, etc.

After completion of the sale and Captain Gove's trip East with his troops to the Civil War, Captain J. C. Clark stayed with his small contingent only until December when he left Fort Bridger in the hands of a few privates and Sergeant Boger. With this removal of the official garrison and all commissioned officers, serious problems arose at Fort Bridger. The Shoshone Indians were hostile and there was special concern as to whether or not the Mormons would try to take advantage of the war situation and the removal of the troops to move in and reclaim the land that they thought was theirs. In this time of emergency a most unusual man emerged who was to dominate the history of Fort Bridger for many years, William A. Carter, who had come to Fort Bridger with Johnston's



Monument at Fort Bridger commemorating the pony express and Oregon trail.

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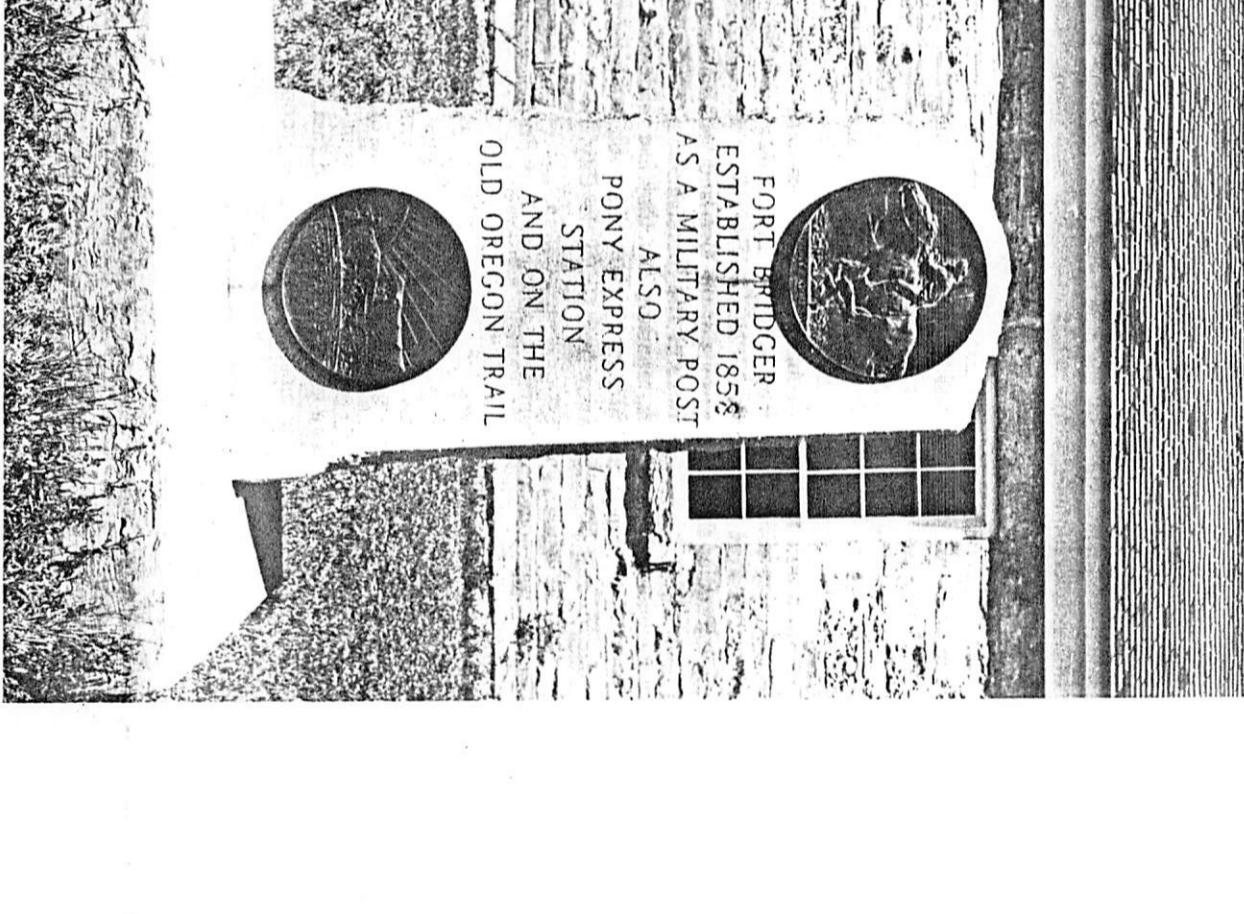
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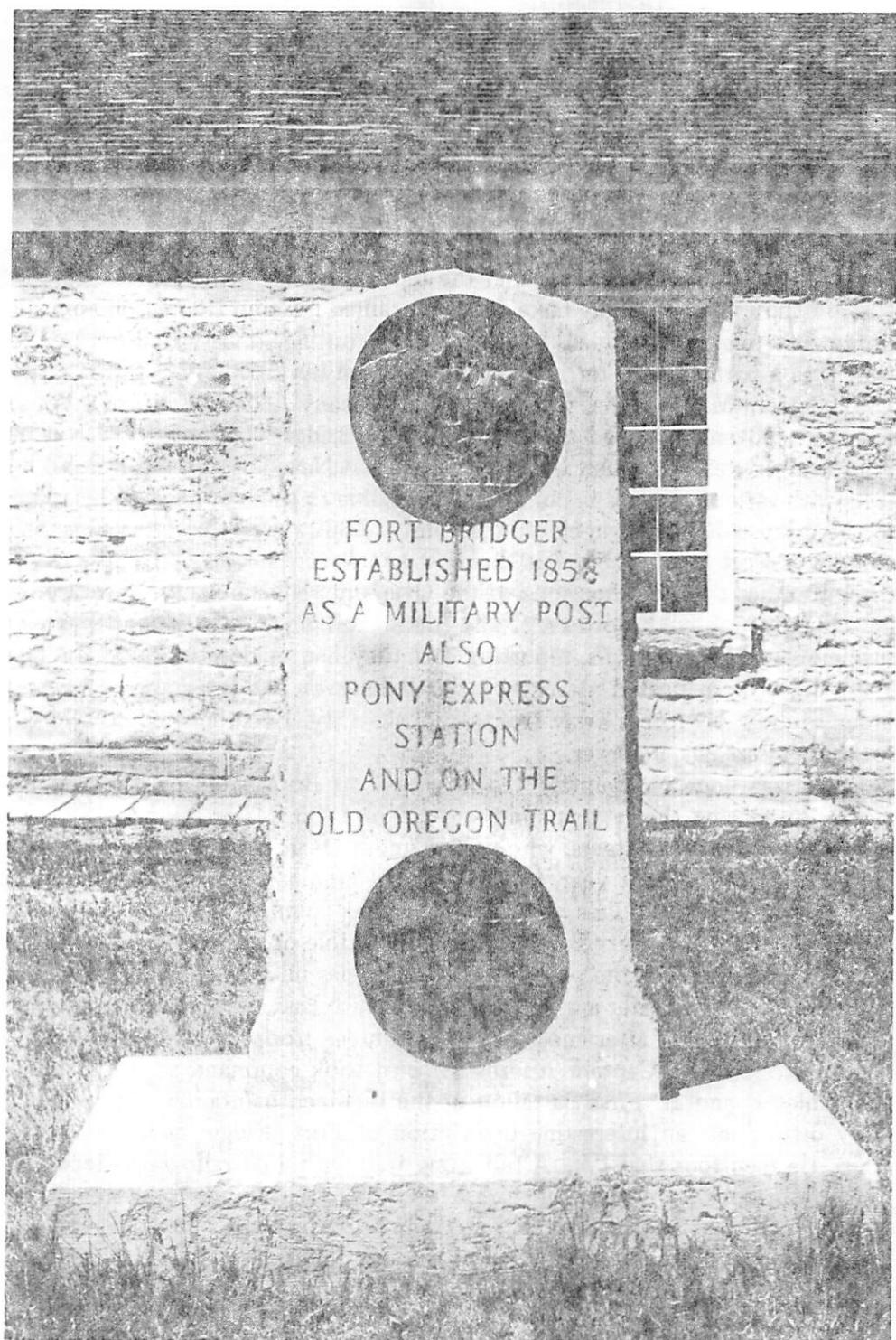
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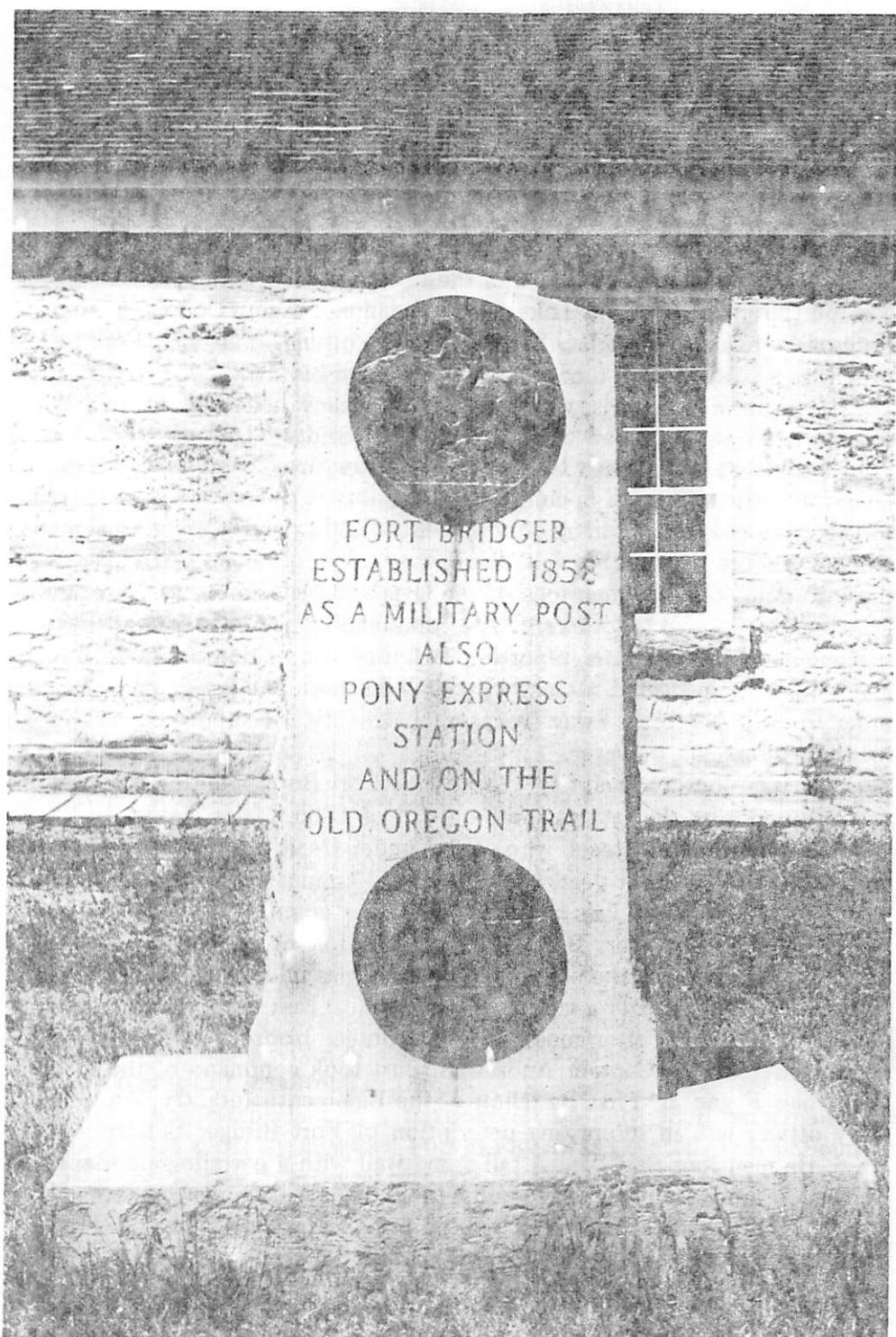
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